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From: Maier, Brent
Sent: Thur 7/28/2016 7:10:06 PM
Subject: U.S. EPA Press Release: EPA, NV DEP require Nevada Department of Transportation to protect local waters

Dear Colleagues:

The following press release is being issued today by the EPA Region IX press office. If you have questions or need any additional information, please give me a call.

Regards,

Brent Maier
Congressional Liaison
Telephone: 415.947.4256



For Immediate Release: July 28, 2016

Media Contact: Margot Perez-Sullivan, 415-947-4149, perezsullivan.margot@epa.gov

EPA, NV DEP require Nevada Department of Transportation to protect local waters

SAN FRANCISCO – The U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) have reached an agreement with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) to resolve alleged violations of NDOT's stormwater permit. The agreement requires NDOT to establish a stormwater management program to control pollutants entering waters, spend \$200,000 on an environmental project that will provide real-time water quality data to the public and pay \$60,000 each to EPA and NDEP.

"Nevada's Governor Sandoval has shown great leadership by investing in the newly-established stormwater program," said Alexis Strauss, EPA's Acting Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. "Water is a vital resource in the arid West, and this agreement will help preserve and protect Nevada's rivers and streams."

Under the federal Clean Water Act, NDOT is required to minimize pollutants in runoff from its operations to lakes and rivers throughout the state. Stormwater runoff from unpaved areas, paved streets and maintenance yards contains contaminants such as sediments, trash, chemicals, and oils that can flow into waterways, resulting in environmental damage.

EPA discovered the alleged violations of NDOT's stormwater permit during a 2011 audit. Nevada subsequently passed a state law directed at minimizing stormwater impacts and invested \$13 million to establish an NDOT stormwater division staffed with 59 full time employees dedicated to reducing the impacts of stormwater pollution. In addition, the state has spent \$7.6 million to purchase needed equipment, such as street sweepers, and has another \$15 million earmarked for projects this year.

NDOT will spend \$200,000 on a supplemental environmental project to upgrade water quality monitoring devices that will post online continuous monitoring data available to the public. This will provide NDOT, local governments, and the public access to real-time water quality information to help protect Nevada's waterways.

The settlement also requires NDOT to develop a public outreach program, digitized statewide maps indicating where NDOT discharges stormwater and a plan detailing steps NDOT is taking to reduce the discharge of pollutants from its operations.

The consent decree for this settlement was lodged in the federal district court by the U.S. Department of Justice and is subject to a 30-day public comment period and final court approval. A copy of the decree will be available on the Department of Justice website at: <https://www.justice.gov/enrd/consent-decrees>

For more information on EPA's stormwater program, please visit:
<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-stormwater-program>

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